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NOTES AND LITERATURE.

NATURE STUDY.

Nature Study.¹—Two little text books on nature study, designed for use in the lower grammar school grades, give evidence of the progress which has been made during the last decade in laying the foundation for the teaching of the natural sciences. Too often in our public and private schools a teacher is expected to give her pupils "nature work," whether she herself is interested in the subject or trained for it. To such, if they have the gift of teaching, these books should prove helpful. Dr. Overton's in particular cannot fail to be stimulating to both teacher and pupil. It contains a series of thirty-two lessons on various simple phenomena of plant and insect life. Carter's *Nature Study with Common Things* is intended especially for city schools. It contains seventeen lessons on material taken exclusively from plant life, either the fruit or that part of the plant in which nutriment is stored. In the hands of an unskilful teacher this course could easily become a burden to the young pupil, inasmuch as it is limited to a field usually uninteresting to children. The following quotation from Dr. Overton's preface brings out one point frequently overlooked in a discussion of nature study; the italics are our own. "The object of nature study," says Dr. Overton, "is not so much to get present knowledge as to develop the power *and love* of observation by which knowledge may be gained in after life."

R. H.

¹ Overton, Frank. Assisted by Mary E. Hill. *Nature Study. A Pupil's Text-book.* New York, American Book Company, 1905. 142 pp., illus.

Carter, M. H. *Nature Study with Common Things. An Elementary Laboratory Manual.* New York, American Book Company, 1904. 150 pp., illus.